



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

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### **New Jersey Man Pleads Guilty to Burglary of Laurel Donut Shop**

A New Jersey man accused of targeting and burglarizing Dunkin' Donut shops in four states has pleaded guilty to the February 22, 2016 burglary of a Laurel store. Blaze Lavon J. Hollingsworth, 25, of the 1200 block of Magnolia Ave., Camden, pleaded guilty to a single count of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burglary in Howard County Circuit Court on Thursday. A co-defendant in the case, Harold E. Carter, Jr. of Erial, N.J., pleaded guilty to 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burglary and was sentenced to four years in prison on October 24, 2016.

At Thursday's plea hearing Assistant State's Attorney Scott Hammond told Judge Dennis M. Sweeney that police responded to the Dunkin' Donuts store at 8305 Ice Crystal Dr. where the front door had been smashed to gain access. The rear office had been ransacked and three cash register trays were on the floor behind the counter. The owner told police that a substantial amount of cash was stolen from the store.

Burglary detectives subsequently learned of a large-scale, multi-jurisdictional series of smash and grab burglaries of Dunkin' Donut and other retailers in New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Harford County where Hollingsworth and Carter had been identified as the primary suspects.

Last month, Hollingsworth pleaded guilty to the March 18, 2016 second-degree burglary of a Harford County Dunkin' Donuts store and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. As part of the plea agreement, Judge Sweeney sentenced Hollingsworth to a flat, 11-year prison sentence, to be served concurrent with his Harford County sentence.

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